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- FOURTH ANNUAL -

JULY 24, 25, 1976

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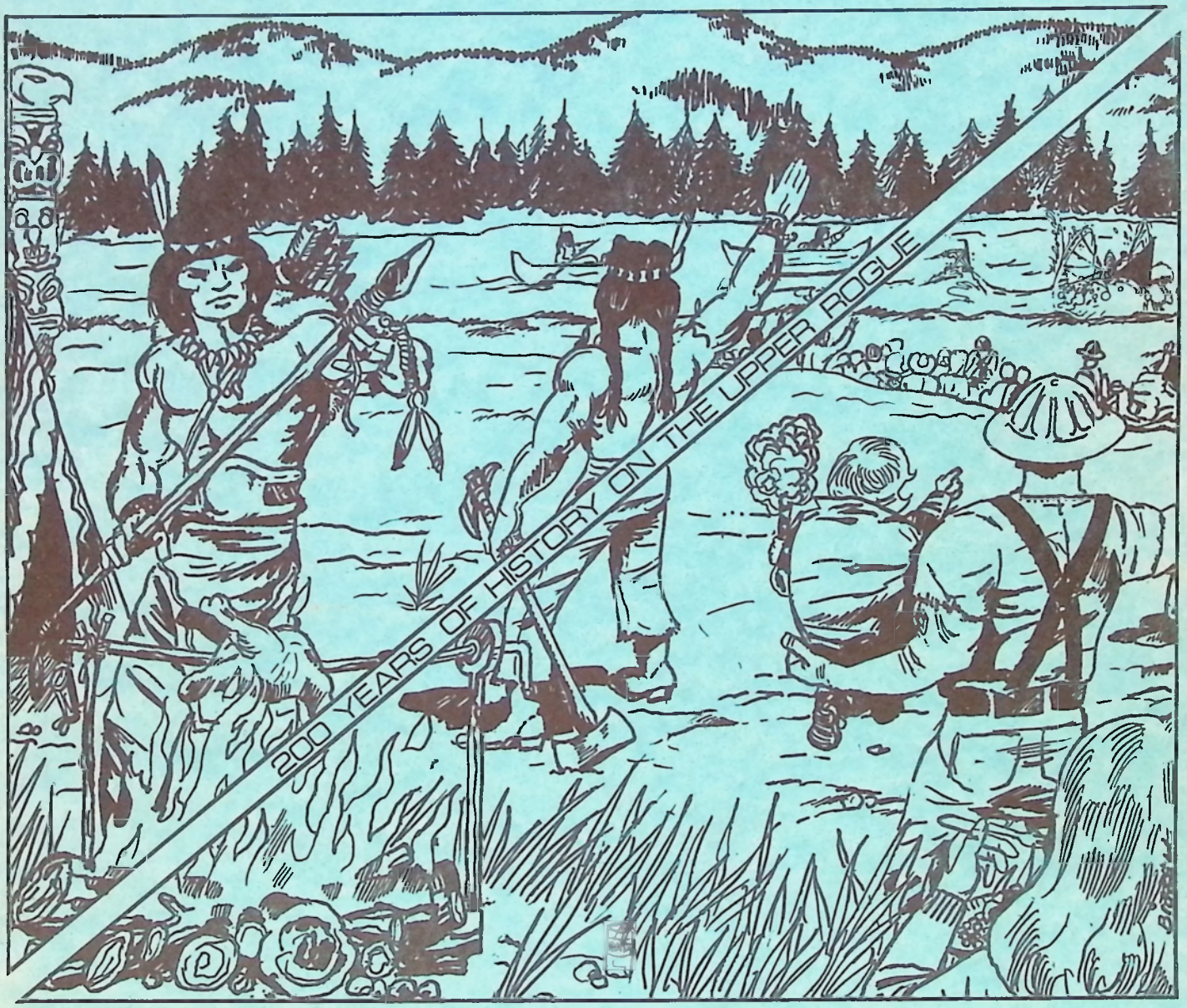

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THE ROGUE WONDERLAND ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

The Rogue Wonderland Association is a non-profit group of businessmen, professionals, and interested citizens who live or do business in the Rogue Wonderland, the Upper Rogue Valley between Highway 234 and Cascade Gorge.

The Association is organized to encourage the orderly development of the Rogue Wonderland while preserving and protecting the natural beauty of the area, and to contribute towards the welfare of the community.

Current projects include the continued development of the volunteer fire department and creation and distribution of a promotional tourist package.

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GRAND MARSHALLS

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Houston, better known as Ed and Ola, were born in this area. Ed was born in Beagle and Ola on Elk Creek.

Some of their earlier life activities have been written in previous booklets for Rogue Wonderland.

Their two daughters, Doris H. Boothby and Wilma H. Simmons, married and reared their children in this area. Doris and Frank lived in Prospect and Shady Cove, Wilma and Eddie in Medford, making four generations of Houstons and Penses born and reared in this community and six generations living in the Rogue Valley.

The Grange, 4-H, Fire Department; Home Extension are some of their life-long interests, which have resulted in our present organizations which are still functioning.

We truly salute Ed and Ola, Mr. and Mrs. Grand Marshalls of the Upper Rogue Wonderland.

A Glimpse of History

INTRODUCTION TO LAND OWNERSHIP

The history of Oregon has excitement because of the particular kind of people who settled here. Most of the people we have interviewed or visited came from Missouri or Middle West. Many original settlers came in covered wagons over the Oregon Trail. The courage and determination of these people is highly commendable. It is these wonderful pioneers we are honoring by dedicating this booklet.

★☆★

HOMESTEAD REQUIREMENTS

EUGENE REGISTER, August 13, 1972

GUARD EMERALD EMPIRE

Oregon drew mass migration thru Homestead Act in 1850. Every white American or half breed Indian over 18 years of age was entitled to take up to 320 acres. Man and wife 640 acres. Aliens who even declared intentions to become citizens were also entitled to homestead. In 1850 all lands were considered public even if Indians lived on them. Sometimes a small token was paid to Indians.

Other Ways To Obtain Land

Donation Land Law – 160 acres allowed (75 years) Homestead

Squatting – Squatter's right stood up in Court, witnessed by Ed Houston

Timber Claim

Railroad Land – $2.50 an acre. The government gave Oregon and California Railroad every other section–640 acres or one mile of land. If the Railroad didn't use this land, it was taken back and called Bureau of Land Management.

Ed Houston. Per 8th Grade Oregon History Book

Paying back taxes on property whose owners had not kept taxes paid.

★☆★

HOMESTEADERS

Ash
Barker
Bender
Boothby – Laurelhurst
Conner, Bert and Juanita – Red Lick
Cushman – Trail Creek
Fisher – Indian Creek
Frye – Tiller Trail
Foeller – Long Branch
Graham, Lester – Elk Creek
Dawson, Levi
Dawson, Thomas
Hall, Al
Houston, William Thomas
Houston, Ed's parents
Inlow
Johnson, Rueb
Johnson, Jeff
Morgan, – Crofoot Rd.
Moore, Art) – Elk Creek
Moore, Claude)
Recter
Sandos
Neighart – Indian Creek
Trusty
Train, Orin and Cora – Crofoot Rd.
Hannah – Rogue River Drive
Winkle, Dan – 80 acres close to Perry & Monica Badgely's.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

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PRINCESS PAGEANT	Pat Niemela, Martha Brooks, Co-Chairwomen
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PIONEER DAYS

PIONEERS AND HOMESTEADERS

ORAGE HOUSTON (deceased) 1899-1975

Orage Houston was the son of William Thomas Houston and grandson of a pioneer who came to Oregon on the old Oregon Trail.

Orage was raised on Dry Creek which crosses the Rogue River drive southwest of Laurelhurst Bench. He attended Laurelhurst Bench School and Eagle Point High School.

His father, William Thomas, raised cattle and hogs, and had an apple orchard. The home burned, but the patch post still stands in place.

In 1917 Orage went into military service. After the war he went to Alaska and worked in the copper mines and trapped for fur pelts.

Orage and his two daughters—Joan (Mrs. Kern Bennett, and Kathy Chenier—returned to Oregon.

In 1951 Orage married Erma Thomas and they built a home in Trail in 1955. Orage and Erma had two children, Doug and Sharon.

Brothers and sisters of Orage are Mrs. Fred (Eula) Middlebusher, Florence (deceased), Mrs. (Josephine) Cornett, Mrs. Homer (Gwendolyn) Edgecomb, Milton, Merle, and Frank (deceased).

★☆★

JOSEPH H. STEWART

Around 1900 Joseph H. Stewart bought 300-400 acres. The orchard was planted prior to 1908 and the fruit was trucked to Medford. A packing house was built to process fruit and about six packers worked there at the time Tressie Vaughn worked. Roy Vaughn hauled pears out of the orchard with a span of mules.

The Joseph H. Stewart estate went to six heirs, one of whom was Mrs. Arthur Weeks.

Her son, Stewart, bought property from the estate.

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JESSIE L. RAGSDALE

Jessie L. Ragsdale homesteaded 160 acres in 1898-1903. He was born in Beagle, Oregon, son of Frank and Jane Ragsdale who had come from Missouri over the Oregon Trail.

In 1900 Jessie married Hattie Dawson (who was also born in Beagle and was a cousin of Bob Dawson). They went to Ft. Klamath on their honeymoon. Hattie worked in the cookhouse and Jessie worked in hay.

Jessie's homestead was located near Howard and Zona Young's property up Trail Creek. The second home was a log cabin built away from Trail Creek because Mr. Ragsdale felt the cause of the typhoid fever he had contracted might be coming from the creek. Quinine tablets were placed on the table alongside the salt and pepper.

Jessie's and Hattie's children were as follows:

Claude – who married Hazel Moss
John (Bud) – who married Helen Howard
Wilmer – who married Arlee Damoth
Wesley – who married Etna Chamberlain
Frank – who married Ruth Tison
Mabel – who married LeRoy Wehde
Glen –
Burt – who married Viola Cooper

Ragsdale bought 78 acres where Burt and Viola now live. Here Glenn and Burt were born.

Besides raising hay and cattle, Jessie worked for the Forest Service. At one time he rode to Prineville to work in hay.

Florence Watson, one of our honored pioneers, was the midwife who delivered one son, Burt.

★☆★

THANKS

To the many people who made this book and festival possible.

The Committee

LESTER GRAHAM

While living in El Cajon, Ca. near San Diego he overheard some men talking about Homesteading land in Oregon. He, with his wife and 8-year old son, moved up near West Branch on Elk Creek. He filed with the Federal Land Office and started homesteading 160 acres plus 120 acres Railroad land. President Coolidge signed Mr. Graham's homestead deed.

There was a long questionnaire to fill out, such as how long he would live on homestead land; how many improvements. One requirement was to live on the property seven months out of the year for five years. Also clear and fence five acres.

He first met Ed Houston at a dance held in a hall on Elk Creek. The outstanding event of the evening was drinking coffee from a tomato soup can because there weren't enough cups.

Mr. Graham worked at Hayes Sawmill. The Grahams arrived in February of 1923 and lived in a tent with a wooden floor until a cabin was built. A one-room cabin was built from lumber costing $20. Later another room with a fireplace was added.

Their son Gordon attended Elk Creek School with Doris and Wilma Houston, daughters of Ed and Ola Houston.

Why the Grahams didn't stay in this area isn't known. To interview someone who was able to give these details was quite unusual.

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1968

By THEDA PEYTON HAVICE

The Laurelhurst Bench

AND THE FAMILIES WHO HOMESTEADED THE HILLS

Upon completion of the Lost Creek Dam, on the upper Rogue River, a last stage of early pioneer life will fade into oblivion. The federal government will have purchased all the properties surrounding the dam and their ownership will have moved full circle from their beginnings in the 1800s when they were homesteaded by early settlers.

One little corner of this vast region is the Laurelhurst Bench, on the northeastern side of the Rogue River.

Among some of the first homesteaders in this region were Reuben E. Peyton, J. F. (Jerry) Ditsworth, John Phipps, Hiram Sullivan (stepfather of Peyton) and S. C. Taylor.

In a recent conversation with Frank Ditsworth, of Ashland, and Ralph Peyton, of Laurelhurst, Ditsworth recalled some of his memories of life in those early days. His sister, Mrs. Carl (May) Richardson, of Ashland, and his wife, Maude, two of the early schoolteachers on the bench were also at hand with anecdotes of their own.

Back To 1887

The first time Reuben Peyton met J. F. Ditsworth was on a hot July day in 1887. Reuben and his party were camped in their tent at Hole-in-the-Ground, known now as Cascade Gorge, while Peyton looked for a place to homestead.

Peyton had come from Wellington, Kans., in search of a place where his mother's health could, hopefully, improve.

By the time Ditsworth came upon the scene, Peyton had about given up hope of finding the perfect spot he had been dreaming of, but Ditsworth escorted him to the edge of the canyon and pointed across the bend on the far side. He told him of a place where the trees were so thick you couldn't turn a wagon around and where they grew so high you couldn't see the sun until noon.

Home Established

Peyton, Ditsworth, Hiram Sullivan and another friend, Arthur Boussum, hiked down to the river, crossed on a fallen log and climbed up the other side.

After looking around for a while, Peyton left the others busily chopping down trees and clearing out the brush to make room for the tent while he went back across the river. He broke camp and moved to the other side where he lived, married, and reared 10 children. He moved to Medford in the 1930s where he lived until his death in 1947 at the age of 91.

Peyton had led a colorful life before migrating West. He was born in Indiana, Sept. 23, 1856, and moved to Kansas when he was two. During his childhood he played with the Indian children and learned their languages.

Major Gordon Lilly, better known as "Pawnee Bill," a neighbor, and Peyton became partners in the cattle business and ran stock in the Indian Territory around Wellington, Kans. They became fancy rifle shots and rope artists and both joined traveling Wild West shows. Peyton joined the Bigelow Show and was joined by Pawnee Bill where they were together in several acts.

Pawnee Bill formed his own show when Peyton came West and in later years he joined this with the Buffalo Bill Show and it was called United Shows. United Shows played in the Rogue Valley once and Peyton received free passes from Pawnee Bill for his whole family.

Treasured Memory

Ralph Peyton, who was about five at the time, sat on Buffalo Bill's lap, this being one of his treasured memories of childhood.

Reuben Peyton met Ora Frances Herron, the daughter of the city constable, in Bloomington, Ill. She later came to Oregon and became his wife.

They were married 49 years at the time of her death in 1940.

At the time Reuben Peyton was still in the Wild West Show, he added a troop of Indians to the act.

When he left Kansas to move West, all the Indians he had employed wanted to give him something so they made an Indian suit for him. It was one of his most prized possessions and is now in the Jacksonville Museum, on loan from H. Earl Peyton, his eldest son.

Several of Reuben and Ora Peyton's children still live in the Rogue Valley. Among them are, Mrs. L. C. (Pearl) McCay, Medford; C. Harold Peyton, Talent, and Ralph E. Peyton, residing on a portion of the old homestead at Laurelhurst. Many grandchildren are still living. A son, H. Earl Peyton, died in Medford on May 3, 1968.

The 10 Peyton children were born at what was known at that time as Peyton, Oregon. It was called this because in 1900 Peyton got the contract to be postmaster and he moved the post office to his property, where it remained until 1912. A marker at the site has been placed near Laurelhurst Road.

Busy Life

As a young wife and mother, Ora was busy rearing children, running a household and acting as postmistress when her husband was absent, but she found time to write a column called Flounce Rock Frills for the Mail Tribune.

The first school for the area was organized in 1891 when the settlers got together one Saturday to raise the school house near what is now the Stewart Weeks place.

Later it was moved upriver to the Kittlestad property.

The cracks between the logs were so wide the youngsters could crawl through and the first teacher, a young

girl from Rogue River, had a terrible time keeping her charges "cooped up," it is recalled.

Skookum Gorge

In those days, Wildwood was known as Skookum Gorge, and what is now known as Needle Rock was Pimple Head. (The hole in the rock was just a tiny crack until Carlos Goddard, who lived where Evergreen Ranch is now, dug it out big enough to stick his head through. Nature, erosion and other diggers have enlarged it through the years.

All the families on the bench had several children but there were few bad accidents or injuries. (Young Arthur Ditsworth died in 1893.) Dr. William W. P. Holt, of Medford, came circuit riding and would stay overnight with one of the families.

Help One Another

Life was hard and all worked together and helped each other when needed.

There was no season for deer and venison was a main staple in the winter. On Dec. 31, 1891, Hiram Sullivan, who was 72, set out hunting. It was known that by habit he would hunt until dark then find his way home. But that night he didn't return. Peyton hunted for him the next day and a search party was organized but no trace of Sullivan was ever found.

The Peytons moved from the bench in the 1930s but the Ditsworths and Richardsons stayed on. Ditsworth became known as the "Strawberry King" of Southern Oregon and people traveled from all over to buy his mountain grown berries. He and his wife moved to Ashland in 1951.

The Richardsons left in 1962. Their son, John, is now regional director for the Social Security Administration in San Francisco.

It was the vision of the early pioneers that gave Laurelhurst its colorful past. It is the vision of the potential of the future use in conservation, irrigation and recreation that gives it a ticket to the future.

★☆★

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WINTER OF '12-'13. *(Left to right)* Earl P. Uriah Vaughn, Roy Vaughn, Kay Kincaid, Pearl Peyton, Ralph Peyton, Lillian Peyton, Hattie Rose (teacher), Howard Kincaid, Stewart Ditsworth, Paul Peyton, *(standing left to right)* Hobart Ditsworth, Jim Peyton.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

PEYTON DESCENDANTS APPRECIATE HONOR OF BRIDGE'S NAME

By Mary Ann Campbell
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Several descendants of Rueben Edgar Peyton, for whom Peyton Bridge at Lost Creek Dam is named, attended the Thursday morning dedication ceremonies, and indicated they appreciated the honor given their father and grandfather.

"It was cold and wet, but it was a nice ceremony," said Mrs. Pearl McCay, Medford, one of the Peyton daughters. "We really appreciated having it named for him. It's a beautiful bridge."

Other members of the family attending the ceremonies included Harold Peyton, a son, of Talent, and members of his family; three granddaughters, Eloise Friesen, Mrs. William Breeden and Theda Havice, all of Medford, and Mrs. Earl (Mildred) Peyton, a daughter-in-law.

Four other surviving children are Mrs. Myrtle Martin, Porterville, Calif., who was born in 1892 and is the oldest child in the family; Mrs. Lillian Hawkeswood, Sacramento, Calif.; Mrs. Nita Duncan, Vellejo, Calif., and James, Aberdeen, Wash.

Mrs. Hawkeswood started to drive north with friends for the ceremonies, but car trouble developed on the way.

James and his family had made plans to go to Hawaii at this time.

Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Duncan were not well enough to make the trip.

Mrs. McCay, herself, almost missed it. She returned Tuesday evening from a visit with a grandson and his family in Baltimore, Md.

Peyton, who homesteaded along the Rogue River in the area, was born in Kansas in 1856 and came to Oregon in 1887.

In the Middle West he operated an Indian show that traveled around the country, giving performances. Similar shows were popular at the time, including a famous one with Pawnee Bill, whom Peyton had known in his youth, and Buffalo Bill, whom Peyton knew but not as a close friend, Mrs. McCay said. The Indians in the show made Peyton an Indian suit, now part of the Jacksonville Museum collection.

Peyton met his wife, Ora Frances Herron of Bloomington, Ill., at one of the performances of his show.

"Mother went home and said to her mother, 'That's the man I'm going to marry,' " Mrs. McCay said. "They corresponded and she came to Medford four years after he had come and they were married here in July, 1891."

Mrs. McCay said her father was 13 years older than her mother. Mrs. Peyton died in September 1940. Peyton lived until 1947, dying at the age of 91.

"He was a kind husband and father," his daughter said. "He was a very nice man."

The first house on the homestead was a log cabin, with hand-made shakes cut from the surrounding trees by Peyton.

Peyton also made and sold shakes and posts as he cleared the forest for his farm.

Mrs. McCay grew up there, but by the time she remembers, the log cabin was gone and they lived in a two-story house.

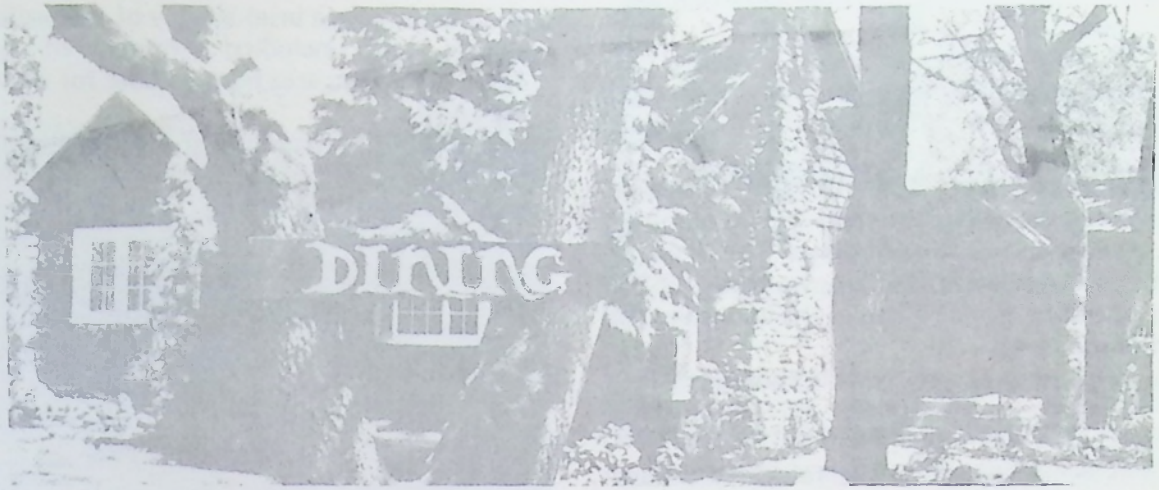
She and her nine brothers and sisters attended a one-room grade school that later blossomed into a two-room school, with a high school room, called Laurelhurst.

The school did not lack pupils. One neighbor had 11 children, which, with the 10 Peytons, and the children of other neighbors, kept the seats filled.

Both the Peytons were musical. Mrs. Peyton played guitar and piano and they sang. Entertainment often consisted of gathering at a home for an evening of songs.

"We loved it there," said Mrs. McCay. "We loved our home and the country around, roaming the hills, fishing and hunting. There were times when life was hard, I guess, but we always had plenty to eat and clothes to keep warm and that's really all you need."

★☆★



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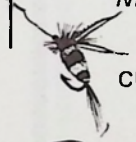

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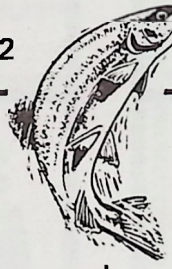

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STATE ACCEPTS $15 MILLION 'GIFT'

By Peggyann Hutchinson
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

The State of Oregon Thursday received a completed $15 million highway project from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Glenn Jackson, chairman of the Oregon Transportation Commission, accepted the 6.6 mile section of Oregon 62, along with two major bridges. The highway, in the vicinity of Lost Creek Dam, moves Oregon 62 to the south side of the Rogue River in the area about 30 miles north of Medford.

At the same time, Jackson "gave the joy of maintenance" of the now by-passed section of Oregon 62 to Jackson County.

The brief ceremony, held in the rain at the north end of Peyton Bridge, marked the official opening of the highway although traffic has been using it for one week.

The project includes the McLeod Bridge—520 feet long and about 25 feet above the Rogue River—and Peyton Bridge—1,677 feet long of steel and concrete which rises 270 feet above the river. The bridge will eventually cross the upper end of the reservoir. The project shortens the route by 1½ miles.

Jackson, who mentioned that it will take an estimated $20 million to reconstruct the remainder of Oregon 62 to the south, remarked that he wished the Corps "had finished the job."

Col. Clarence Gilkey, Portland District engineer for the Corps, gave a brief history of the project and introduced guests, including a number of descendants of Reuben Peyton, area homesteader for whom the bridge is named.

Cutting the red, white, and blue ribbon in dedicating the bridge were Jackson, County Board of Commissioners Chairman Tam Moore, and Harold Peyton, Talent, son of Reuben Peyton.

CUTTING RIBBON—All eyes were on the scissors Thursday morning, including many cameras, as three persons snipped a red, white, and blue ribbon, officially opening a 6.6 mile section of Oregon 62, which includes 270-foot high Peyton Bridge across the Rogue River. Manning the scissors were, visible just above the umbrella, left to right, Tam Moore, chairman of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners; Glenn Jackson, chairman of the Oregon Transportation Commission, and Harold Peyton, Talent, son of Reuben Peyton, early settler in the area for whom the bridge is named. Traffic on Oregon 62 was halted during the brief ceremony and cars and trucks are shown backed up on the 1,677 foot long span of Peyton Bridge.

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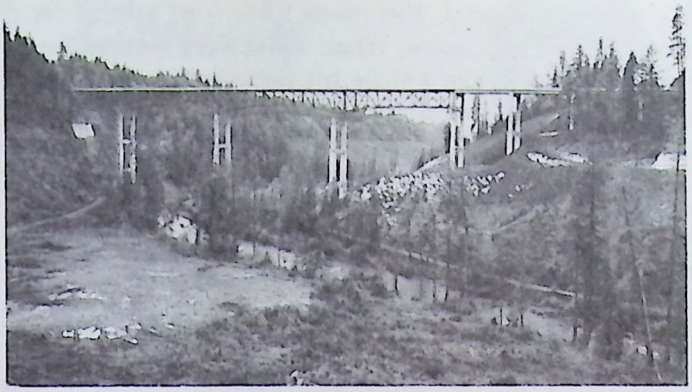

Reuben Peyton built a road from his cabin down to the Rogue River in the late 1800s and then talked the county into building him a bridge across the river, the first in that location. Bridges then were generally known as Laurelhurst, but when the Corps started designing the present structure they uncovered the Peyton name on old county maps.

Jackson stressed the "great deal of cooperation of all levels of government" in getting the project completed and particularly commended the Rogue Basin Flood Control and Water Resources Association for "picking up the pieces" after plans collapsed in 1948 on a Rogue Basin Project. Lost Creek Dam is one of three dams with the project in Jackson County.

In remarks prior to the dedication Jackson noted that there are 4,000 vehicles daily using Oregon 62 at Shady Cove, which is about capacity for a two-lane highway. He anticipates that pressure will increase for the improvement of the remainder of the highway once Lost Creek Lake has filled.

The tourist, recreationist, and logging traffic will all reach their peaks during the same time, Jackson said.

Jackson said that a four-mile project to widen the shoulders and place an overlay on the present highway is expected to be completed just north of White City late next year.

For the remainder of the section to the north the Highway Division has just started preliminary survey work.

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The added width needed—wide shoulders to allow stopping—along the "scenic drive up through the canyon" will compound the problem of future construction, Jackson explained. An environmental impact statement must be prepared on the project.

Jackson called the delay in the one cent gas tax increase "unrealistic in view of the needs." (Opponents of the increase were successful in September in getting the matter referred to the voters in November, 1976. It would have added $33 million to highway funds.)

Moore mentioned the "human side" of the project, mentioning the safety factors built into the new highway.

Gilkey reviewed the Lost Creek Dam project which is now 85 per cent complete, noting that at this time next year it will be providing flood control.

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"REFLECTIONS"

Reflecting on the past can be very joyous or very sad. Joyous would have to describe my memories of the man the column is about this week.

John Ragsdale was born in 1903 in a log cabin on the Ragsdale homestead in Trail, Oregon. He was one of eight children, seven boys and one girl. Of the eight only John, his brother, Bert, and his sister, Mable are still surviving. When John was only six years old, he lost the sight in both eyes due to an accident.

After attending "The School for the Blind" in Salem, John worked in Portland before moving to Eagle Point in April of 1928. At that time he rented some space in the Herb Perry Garage and opened a store. Perry's Garage is now a residence and is located about a block from Ed's Oasis on Old Hwy 62. In August of that year John married his wife, Helen, and they purchased a home between Perry's Garage and where the Lazy "A" Trailer Park now is.

In 1930 John and Helen gave up the store and contracted a mail route. They kept the route for eight years, during which time their two children, Vernon and Juanita were regular passengers in the mail car. Although underbid on the mail route in '38, John was not jobless long. He opened a newstand in the old Medford Post Office the same year. The post office, however, was due for remodeling, and a year later the stand was moved to the Jackson County Court House. For the next nine years John was a familiar figure to the people at the Court House.

John decided to move his business closer to home, and in 1948 he built a store in Eagle Point. The store was called "Ragsdale's Whatnot" and was located on the corner of Royal and Main next to the bridge and across from the Chevron station. Shortly after opening the store John and Helen again contracted the mail route that went to Brownsboro, Lake Creek and Dead Indian Soda Springs. At that time both Brownsboro and Lake Creek still had post offices of their own. The route and the store proved to be too much, and after leasing the store out for awhile John decided in 1954 to close it and move the building. Helen became ill a few years later and was not able to drive so they turned the route over to their son, Vernon and his wife, Eileen.

Eagle Point lost John and Helen in 1961 when they moved to Medford, and John again took over the stand in the Court House.

John says he retired from the Court House in 1973 in order to really go to work. He and Helen do caning. Caning is almost a lost art, and they have chairs and other caned articles sent to them from all over to be repaired. At the present time they are working on two chairs that belong to someone in Bellingham, Washington.

John is a remarkable man, who has never been handicapped regardless of the fact that he is blind. He never used a guide dog, but this instinct for finding his way is uncanny. I've never known of him to fit a wrong name to a voice. When I was very young, I was certain he could see a little bit because it was impossible to get anywhere close to him without him knowing you were there. My overnight stays at Ragsdales, and there were many of them, always left me a little more in awe of John. After all, how many girls had a best friend, whose dad could read at night after all the lights were out.

John and Helen were and still are very special people to me. When I spoke to John on the telephone this morning, I asked him if he was still as ornery as ever. To those of you who know him, his answer is typically John.

He said, "Sweet Annie, I'm just as ornery as hell, and intend to stay that way."

–By ANNA ZANDER, EAGLE POINT NEWS

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Did You Know?

- Trail had a Swinging Bridge before the permanent bridge was built.
- Henry Trusty drove a stage from Elk Creek to Eagle Point where passengers boarded a train to Medford.
- Takelma was the name of the Indians in this area.
- It was said the Indians used the madstone from the stomach of an albino deer, dried well, for snake bites or infection. (contributed by Charlie McCann)
- Buck Rock, northeast of Trail, was named by Albert Winkle (pioneer hunter and trapper) in 1860.
- Flounce Rock, near new Peyton Bridge, was so named by Hiram Abbott (pioneer resident) because it resembled flounces on women's dresses.
- Original road through this area was built to carry gold from John Day to Jacksonville.
- A young girl brought the mail from Agate Road to Persist on horseback and sometimes by light rig. (contributed by Caroline Drexler and Audrey Easten)
- Folklore says that two tribes of Indians fought over hunting grounds around Mill Creek Falls. Finally an agreement was made. If they could hear the "heart beat" of the Falls they were too close. (contributed to Shirlee Graham by the children of Prospect)
- History Section—the new library will have Rogue Wonderland booklets and tapes by pioneers will be filed.
- Bob Dawson and father cut and stacked hay for 50¢ a ton? Made enough money to supply all their winter needs.

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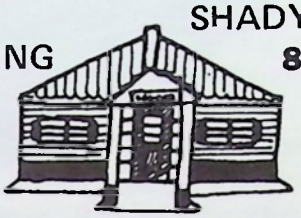

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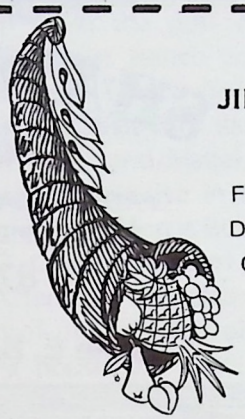

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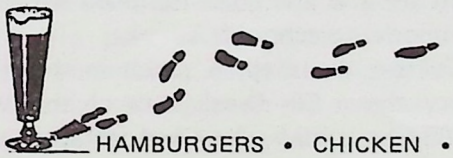

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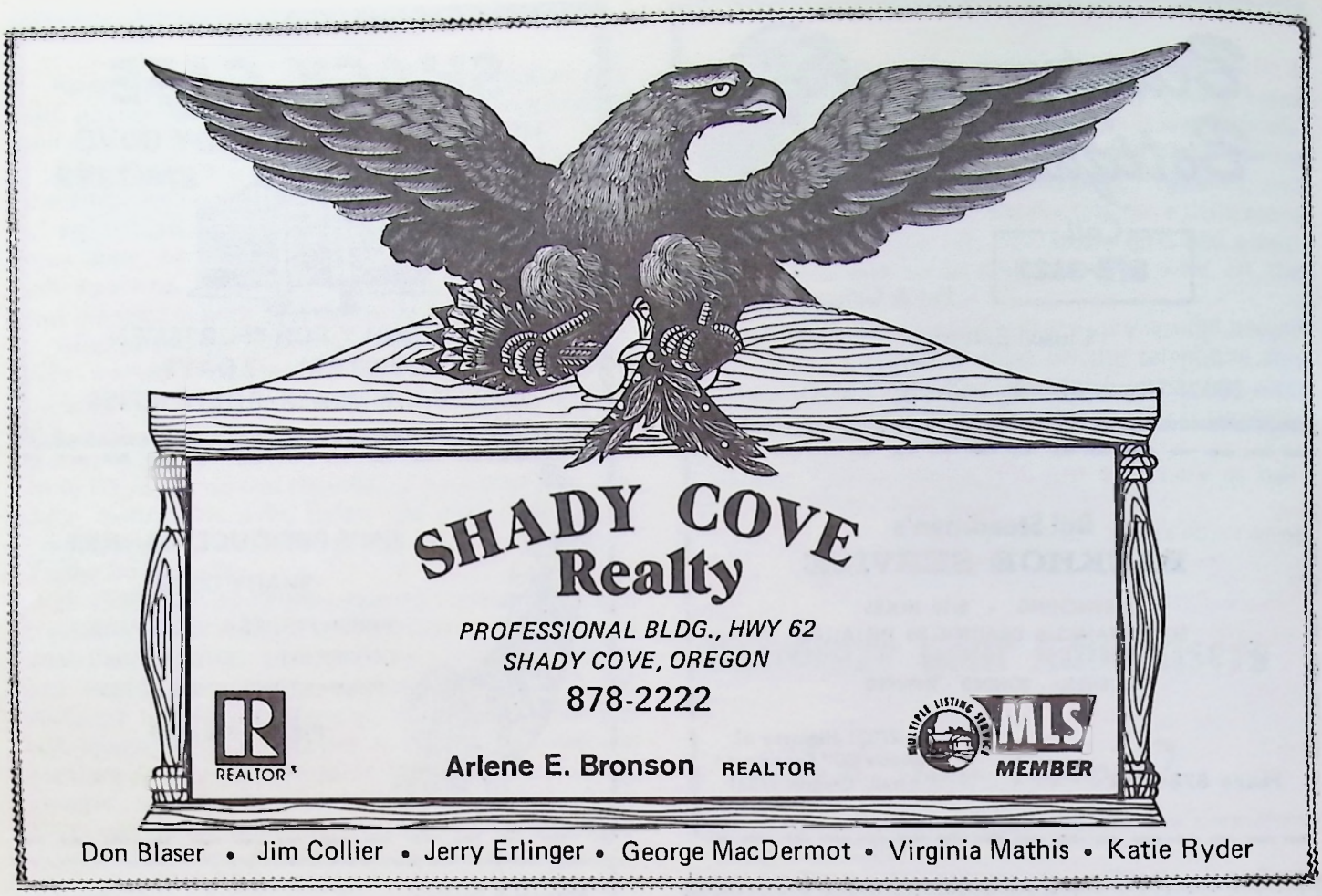

PERSIST RANCH

Persist is no longer considered past the limits of society—as it was for many years—because the mailman now makes three trips up there each week, electricity has been brought in, and the road has been widened enough to accommodate a school bus.

Persist is a dot on the map, a ranch in the high mountain country above Elk Creek, a ranch that was established in 1884 by a man who liked isolation and remote living.

"My grandfather always said if he could hear the ring of his neighbor's axe, civilization was crowding him," Bill Willits, an Ashland man, recalled. "He chose the mountains for seclusion and my grandmother went with him out of loyalty. They stayed up there until they could no longer farm, then the ranch passed into other hands."

Apparently the name Persist means all the word implies.

William W. Willits came to Oregon from Iowa in 1875 and married Irene Wrisley, the daughter of John and Eliza Wrisley, of Talent. They settled on the mountain homestead that became known as Persist Ranch in 1884.

A daughter, Mrs. Ivan (Inez) McDonough, Ruch, who was one of the four Willits children, remembers life there; her father breaking ground with a horse and plow; her mother drying fruit and huckleberries and canning vegetables for the winter; the poplar trees that shaded the house, the lilacs and roses that grew so profuse in the mountains; the fine orchard (especially the apples); the turkeys and potatoes sold as cash crops; the house of sawed lumber with a big kitchen and a "north side porch where it was always pleasant in the summertime."

She also remembers hard winters, when snow would be three to five feet deep in drifts, and, the steep road along Squaw Creek grade: "I thought when I first learned to drive that if I could drive the old Ford past that spot and not run off the edge of the cliff, I could drive anywhere."

Mrs. McDonough remembers how after the Persist Post Office was established in their home in 1902, with her father as postmaster, mail was first carried in on horseback from Trail, 22 miles, or from Prospect, 10 miles.

"All of the mail was piled in a big box and the neighbors—there were several other ranches in the area, the Morgans, the Lewises, the Moore brothers—would come and get what was theirs," she said.

The Willits had three sons, Merle, Roy and Amos, and daughter, Inez.

When a little school was established in the area in about 1907 it became known as Persist School (District No. 80) and the first teacher is remembered as "Miss Norcross," whose parents owned orchards where Mon Desir now stands near Central Point. The second teacher was Alice French, a 16-year-old graduate of Ashland High School who held a "teaching certificate" and launched what was to become a long teaching career here in the mountain community.

Miss French lived with the Willits family, rode a Shetland pony back and forth to school, and eventually became Mrs. Amos Willits.

It is remembered that the schoolhouse was the center of what social activity there was. Mrs. McDonough said the neighbors would meet here for picnics or for dances, as the school was "big enough to accommodate three or four couples dancing at the same time." The teacher played the piano or the organ for the parties and sometimes there was "a Swedish man who played a mouth organ."

Another woman who remembers Persist School well is Mrs. Ralph (Edna) Raymond, Central Point, who was one of the three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lewis. The Lewises established a ranch about a mile from Persist in 1896. They lived there until their three daughters, Edith, Edna and Beatrice, were ready to go to high school in Medford, then they moved to the valley. After the girls were finished with school, the Lewises returned to the Persist area and lived in the school building (by this time, the school district had consolidated with Elk Creek School). They lived there until during World War II when gas rationing made it impossible for their daughters to visit them often—and the daughters insisted their parents return to the valley.

Mrs. Raymond's second teacher was Alice French Willits. Years later Mrs. Willits returned to SOC to get her bachelor's degree and she and Mrs. Raymond's son were graduated in the same college class.

Mrs. Hilda Kinney, Ashland, taught at Persist School in 1925-28 (then an 18-year-old, she remembers having carried a gun to school because she was afraid of bear).

Mrs. Arthur Moore, widow of one of the Moore brothers remembered by Mrs. McDonough, also lives in Ashland.

After nearly 50 years of living at Persist Ranch, years during which the Willits bore the tragedy of the deaths of two of their sons, Roy in a hunting accident and Amos when fire destroyed the old Page Theater in Medford, the couple who pioneered the mountain community went to Santa Maria, Calif., to live with their son, Merle.

In 1935 the post office was discontinued and in 1937 Persist Ranch was leased to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nicholson. The Nicholsons, who had farmed near Central Point, had four daughters, Minnie, now Mrs. Kenneth Lacy, and Mabel, now Mrs. Oscar Hanson, both of whom still live in the area, on Elk Creek ranches; Lizzie, Mrs. Morris Bush, deceased, and, Margaret, Mrs. E. G. Childers, now of Klamath Falls.

After the Nicholsons, Persist Ranch had a succession of owners. The original Willits home was replaced by a house the Clint Cranes built after they moved here from Southern California in the 1940s, but it eventually burned. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Jack McWhorter, live in a mobile home situated under the huge oak trees—close to the old barns and about all that still stands of the original Willits home place.

It is an easy, pleasant drive to Persist Ranch, and a beautiful one, especially when the autumn colors have touched the oak and maple leaves.

The ranch that was once a good five-hour buckboard trip past what was considered the limits of society—electricity, mail and telephone lines serving as the line of demarcation—is now about a half-hour drive from the junction of Elk Creek Road and Crater Lake Highway.

—MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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MARTHA BROOKS

Miss Rogue Wonderland 1975

Martha Brooks was born in Chicago, Illinois. To keep busy, she is actively a member of National Honor Society, F.F.A. and Job's Daughters. Martha enjoys art, writing poetry and short stories. She also enjoys riding and training horses. Martha's future plans include majoring in art in college.

Being Miss Rogue Wonderland has been a most rewarding and happy experience for me. I know the next Miss Rogue Wonderland will surely feel the same.

Water Festival - 1976 Princess Contestants

Sixteen-year-old Charlene Francies was born in Sebastapol, California and now lives in Trail, Oregon. Charlene attends Eagle Point High School and is a member of E-Gals Girls League. Her many talents and hobbies include horseback riding, sewing, embroidery, cooking, hiking, and stamp collecting. Brown-eyed and black-haired Charlene is a trim 5'7" and weighs 134 pounds.

COLLEEN CARRICK
Miss Shady Cove Hardware

Colleen Carrick makes her home in Shady Cove, Oregon, is a student at Eagle Point High School, and is 17 years old. Her hobbies and talents are water skiing, swimming, sewing, horseback riding, hiking, and tennis.

CHARLENE FRANCIES
Miss Trail Market

LYNNETTE HINKS
Miss Chuck's Mobil Station

Lynnette Hinks, age 16, is a petite 5'4" and weighs 105 pounds. When she is not attending Eagle Point High School, she is usually either swimming, sewing, or riding a dirt bike.

IRENE WORTH
Miss Shady Cove Market

Irene lives in Trail, Oregon and is a student at Eagle Point Senior High School. She is 16 years old, is 5'4" tall and weighs 105 pounds. Irene enjoys sewing, cooking, swimming, and participates in church activities.

CHERYL (SUE) WILSON
Miss Jerry's Shale Pit

Cheryl (Sue) Wilson lives in Trail, Oregon and attends Eagle Point High School. She is 5'9" tall, weighs 130 pounds, and is 15 years old. She enjoys swimming, tennis, and bike riding. She also likes to bake and read

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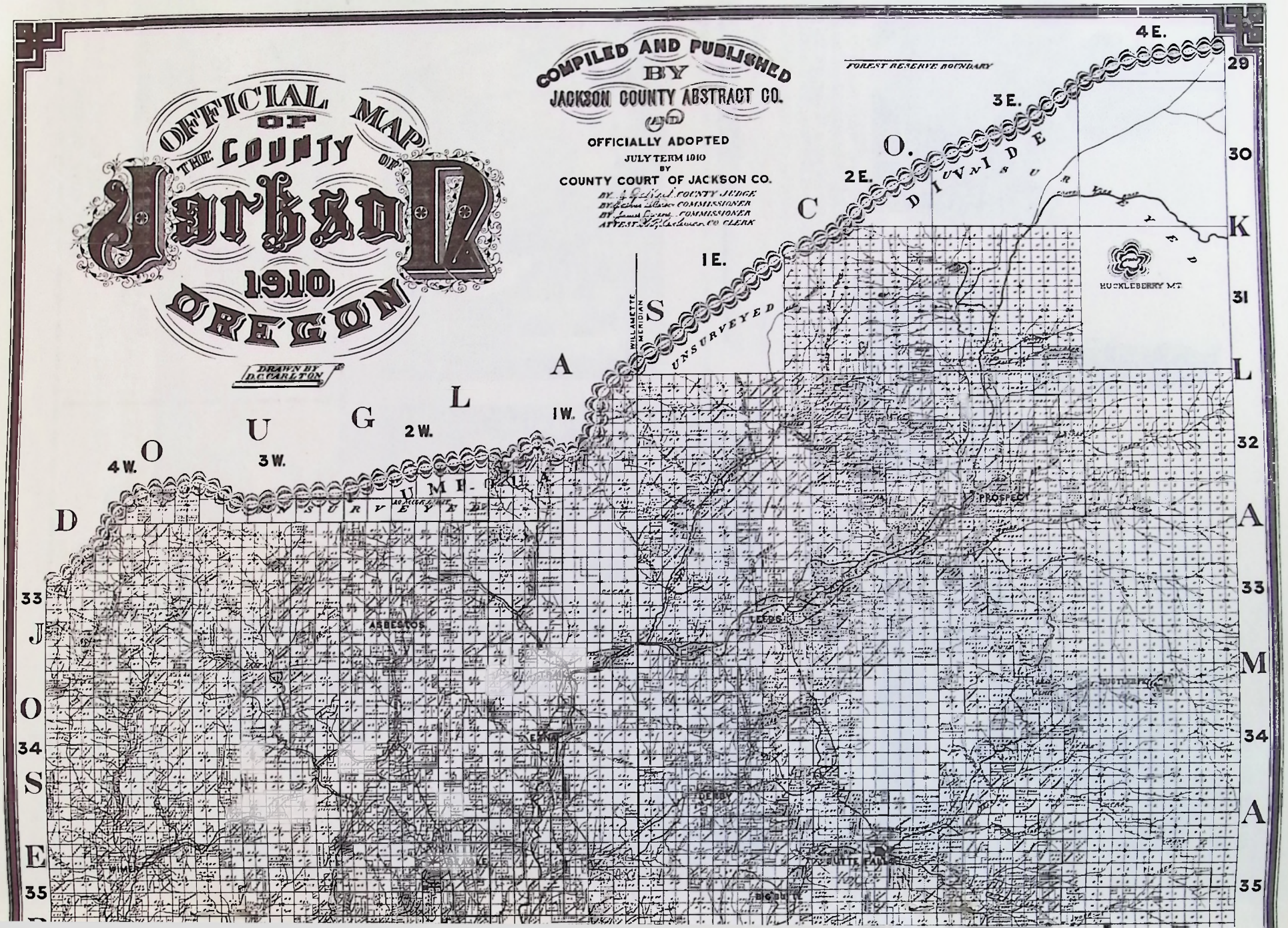
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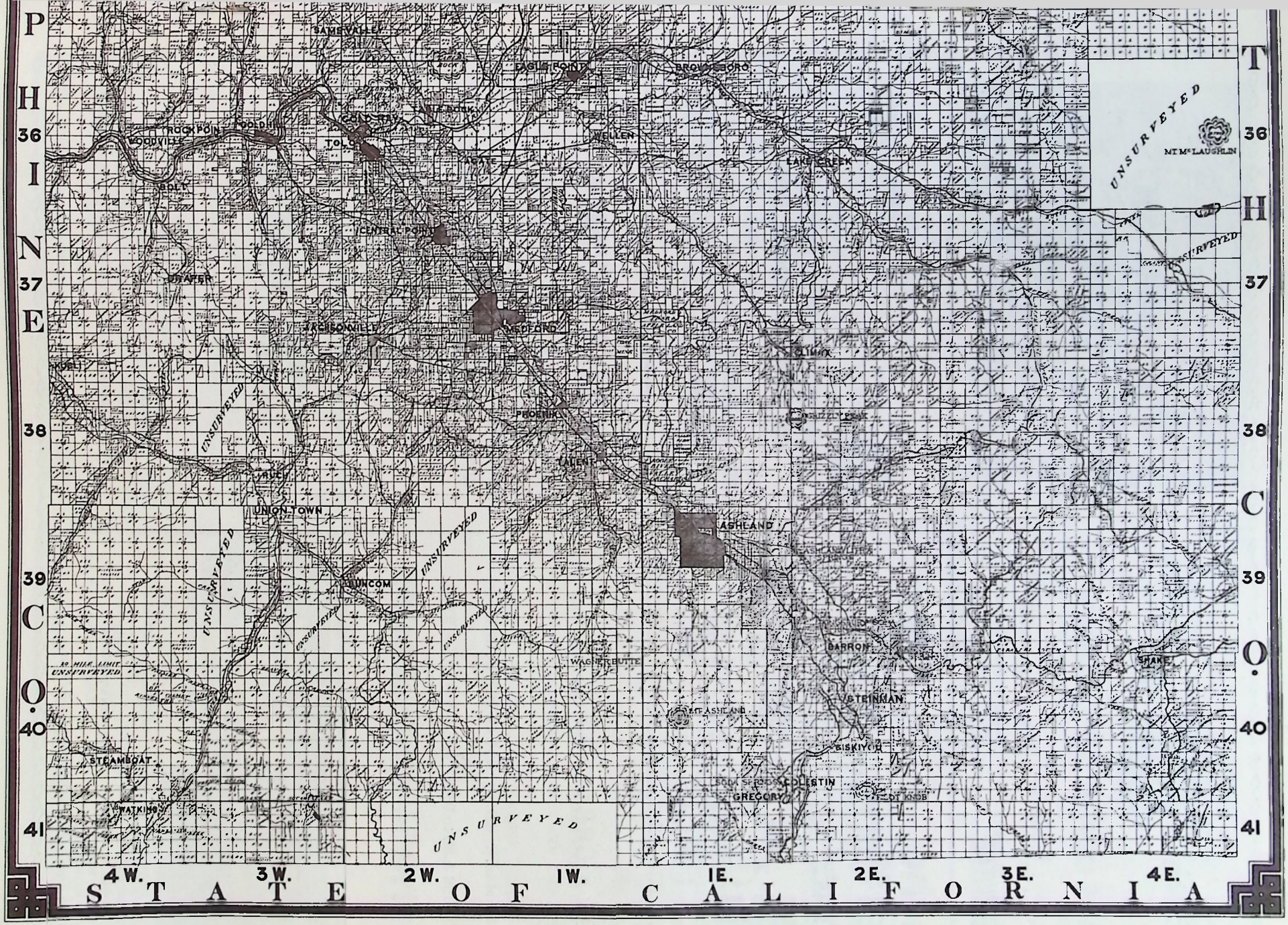
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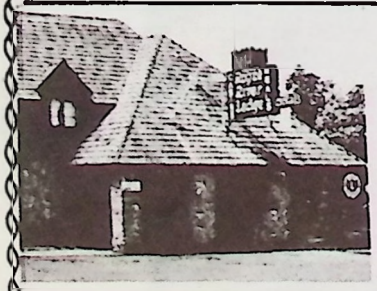

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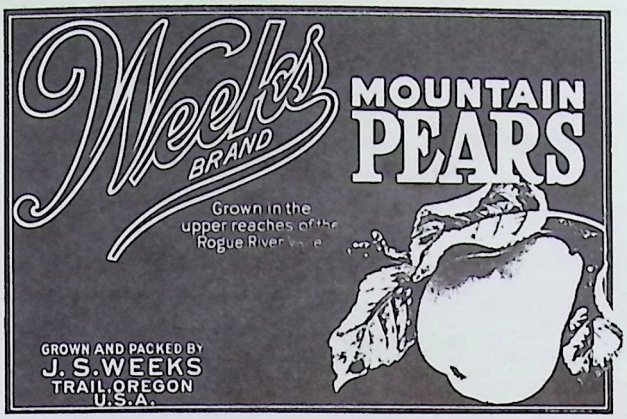

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE, January 8, 1967

AUCTION SUNDAY ATTRACTS CROWD

An auction sale Sunday at the ranch of the late John Stewart Weeks, Laurelhurst Road, grossed $21,524, according to William Bray, auctioneer.

He estimated 500 to 600 people attended the sale. They came from Eastern and Southern Oregon and Northern California.

"This was the biggest sale we have had in this valley for about 20 years," Bray said.

Among the tools, machinery, farm and packinghouse equipment sold was a 1921 White truck, which went for $270 and a 1934 or 1935 White truck which sold for $300. An old logging wagon with wooden wheels sold for $100 and will be donated to the Jacksonville Museum.

Also sold was 75 head of Hereford cattle.

The late Mr. Weeks was one of the first combat pilots trained by the U.S. Government during World War I. He flew several combat missions as a fighter pilot and was reported to have been an ace. He was awarded the French Cross of Lorraine.

★☆★

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE, January 17, 1971

FLORENCE E. WEEKS DIES IN CALIFORNIA

Miss Florence Elizabeth Weeks, granddaughter of the late Joseph H. Stewart, who was known as "the father of the fruit industry in Oregon," died Jan. 12 in Berkeley, Calif.

Miss Weeks was born in Medford, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Weeks. Her grandfather, who came to Oregon in 1884, planted the first commercial orchard in the Rogue Valley.

In 1967, Miss Weeks and her sister, Mrs. Grace Weeks Jory, also of Berkeley, sold the property, which their grandfather had homesteaded on the Rogue River in Jackson County, to the Army Corps of Engineers.

State Park

This property will become the Joseph H. Stewart State Park as part of the recreation development of the Lost Creek Dam and Reservoir on the Rogue River.

As a young girl Miss Weeks moved to Oakland, Calif., about 1893, with her sister and parents. Her father was an architect. She attended Oakland High School and the University of California, Berkeley, graduating in the class of 1909 with a major in anthropology.

She taught physical education at Fremont High School for six years and then was appointed supervisor of physical education for girls in all the Oakland schools. She held this position for 29 years, retiring in June, 1946.

Miss Weeks was a charter member of Sigma Chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority at UC and had been an active member for 60 years.

Many Interests

Her other interests included the Soroptimist Club of Oakland; the Bay District of the California Association for Health, Education, and Recreation; Women's Athletic Club of Oakland; the Executive Women's Club of Oakland; the National Retired Teachers Association; the California Retired Teachers Association; and board of directors of the Oakland YWCA.

Miss Weeks was a lifelong member of the Baptist church.

She was active in many philanthropic and service projects, most recently assisting development of the recreation and activities center for the proposed extended care facility at Alta Bates Hospital, Berkeley.

Her grandfather, a member of the Illinois Legislature, was one of the organizers of the Medford Bank, serving as its first president.

Private memorial services were held in Berkeley Saturday with entombment at Memory Gardens in Medford.

Survivors, in addition to her sister, include one niece and two nephews.

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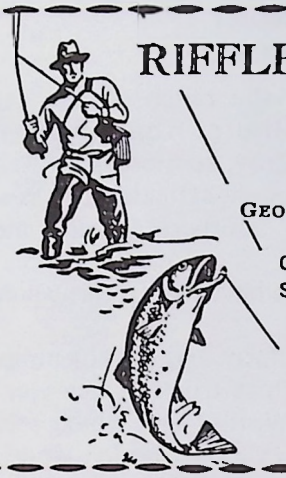

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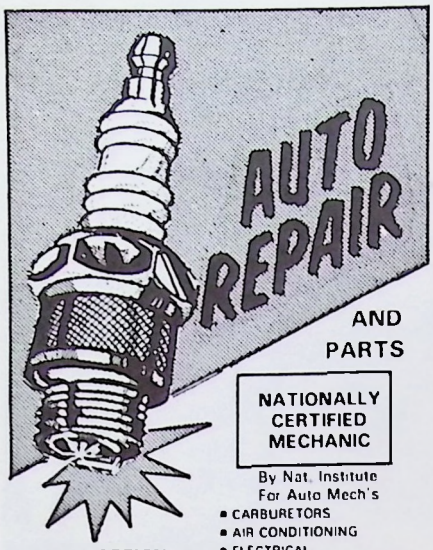

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TRAIL, OREGON FROM THE BEGINNING

Trail, Oregon is not an exciting or lively community to the passerby, but to those who have lived there through the years, it is not only home, but also brings back many pleasant and unpleasant memories. The older people enjoy talking about the old times "on the Creek," and as they recall these times, they realize how quickly the time has passed from the beginning of this community. The original settlers have passed away, and only two of the children are left, but the memories of them linger on.

The community of Trail is not large, and it is not likely that it will ever grow unless an industry would settle there. Its geographic location and the speed of travel cause its growth to be limited. Good building space is mostly gone. About the only work available is logging, and there are large shopping towns not far away. The farms are too small to make a living on now, so the farmers must work out also. Even though Trail is small, it is a part of our American democracy, and its people are as important as the people in the largest cities.

This community is located about twenty-five miles north of Medford, Oregon, on highway 62. Trail Creek stretches from the Umpqua Divide to its mouth on the Rogue River. Trail itself is located near the Rogue River at the Junction of highway 227 with highway 62. Many tourists stop for gasoline, groceries, to fish or ask directions. Some of these have come back to settle there along the river. Also some have come to work in the logging and settled along the Creek.

This brief history of Trail, Oregon will be considered in three phases: the beginnings, later developments, and recent developments.

I. The Beginnings

The community of Trail has several beginnings which will be discussed here: the origin of its name, the early homesteaders and landowners, the first buildings, the first roads, the early events, the cemetery, and the ferry.

It is not certain who named Trail or when it was named, but logically it received its name from Trail Creek on which it is located. Trail Creek received its name from the old Indian trail which went over the Umpqua Divide.

> Trail is a Postoffice on the Rogue River at the mouth of Trail Creek. Trail Creek is known because of an Indian trail from the Rogue River to the Umpqua River traversed along its banks and was a short cut from the Military Road to Roseburg in pioneer days. Will G. Steel is authority for the statement that the original name of Trail Creek was Stuart Creek, but it does not now go by that name.[1]

This trail was used quite often by the pioneers. The mail was often carried over this trail, and as people began to settle along the Creek the trail was used for travel to Trail until later when a road was opened covering much of the old trail. Some say they believed this trail went up the Rogue and over to Fort Klamath, but it is not certain. At any rate this old Indian trail was significant to this community because it was not only a traveling route, but also the source of its name.

There are several names which are significant concerning early homesteaders and land owners in the Trail area. These men whose names will be mentioned literally hewed their lands and homes out of the forest and terrain. They were true pioneers. Mr. Seband Oliver came to the area of Trail ninety-eight years ago (1878) and took up a homestead claim about five miles above Trail near the Creek. His claim was granted June 14, 1879 by the United States Government.[2] Because the only building material available was logs, Mr. Oliver built a log house on the property and began raising cattle as well as wheat and other farm products. He ground his own flour from the wheat. Two sons and one daughter are still living.[3] Another early pioneer was Mr. Carl T. Skyrman. Mr. Skyrman came to Trail shortly before 1880 as a trapper. Later he married Emma Martin, who had come with her parents, Tom Martin, in 1880, and they began raising cattle. They were both very hard workers. She was known for her ability to ride a horse. They always raised a large garden which often helped supply the neighbors. They built their house in 1907. It was a large two-story house and is still being used. Mr. Skyrman dug a ditch to irrigate the place. The ditch was "the width of a shovel and over a mile long." It was dug by hand and had a fall of one foot to the rod. This ditch is still in use. Mr. Skyrman looked after the schoolhouse and kept it going nine months of the year. (This was the Upper Trail School.)[4]

Tom Martin came to Trail community in 1880. He brought five head of horses with him which were later stolen and never found. Mr. Martin received a homestead claim from the United States Government October 30, 1889.[5] He built a log house and raised cattle.[6]

Others who settled early in the Trail area were Tom and Levi Dawson; Tom Dawson, whose property was recorded April 3, 1882[7]; Simpson Wilson, who was school clerk for some time; J. T. Fry, whose property was recorded February 23, 1891[8]; Cushman, who was a squatter; Gilbert Briscoe, whose property was recorded January 3, 1880[9]; Obediah Willard, who raised sheep and cattle; Mr. Hill, who also raised about one hundred head of cattle; and John and Joe Miller, who were Indian war veterans and received a pension of eight dollars a month which was later raised to twelve dollars a month.[10]

There were several early buildings built in the Trail area. These buildings were typical of the time. They were significant to the people as supply centers, as recreation centers, as a mail service and most likely as a place to "get together." The first Post Office was "established February 1, 1893.

(Continued) The building was between two trees. It is thought that the Inlows had the Postoffice next until it was moved to Middlebusher's hotel. They had it until 1914 when Mr. Edward Ash came from Michigan and became Postmaster until his death in 1935. He had the Postoffice in his store until 1928 when he moved it to the new store.

Besides the Postoffice, there were other early buildings in Trail. The hotel was built in 1902. The Inlows were thought to be the original owners, and they had a small store in the hotel. Mr. Yancey Allen was the next owner. The store was built in 1906. It had a sign in front with this date on it. In 1912 Mr. Edward Ash bought the hotel and store from Mr. Allen. Mr. Ash operated the store until 1928 when the new store was built. To go with the hotel was a livery stable where the horses were taken care of while travelers stayed in the hotel. Trail was a half-way stop for travelers from Prospect to Medford, so many people were accommodated there. Mr. Ash continued building in the community. In about 1917 he built the building known as the "old dance hall." This building had lumber in it which Mr. Ash brought from Michigan. "The old dance hall" was later used as a Church. About the same time that Mr. Ash bought the store and hotel, Middlebushers came to Trail and built a two-story hotel in which the Postoffice was located for a time. There was also another hotel about three miles above Trail, but they were all kept busy because of the slow transportation of the day.[13]

Other early buildings of interest were the schools. The Upper Trail School has already been mentioned. This building was later used as a home until it burned. The Lower Trail School building was first built in 1901. The material was furnished by Simpson Wilson, and the carpentry work was done by John Warner for twenty-five dollars. The specifications for this building were as follows:

> 24 ft. long, 10 ft. wide, 12 ft. high
> batting over cracks, 36 in. shingles
> 12 in. to weather, floored, ceiling
> overhead, six windows and one door
> all to be cased up with furnished
> chessed lumber cornish.[14]

School must have started in or before 1899 because the records show the school in operation. It was evidently held in a building belonging to Laura Dawson because she was paid house rent (two dollars).[15] Mary Dawson was the teacher then. The next teacher was Mattie Carter. Her contract stated that she was to receive twenty-eight dollars a month "as long as any money" existed.[16] All eight grades were in the one building. This building was torn down and a better one room building was built. Later another room was added.[17] This building still stands and is being used as a Church at the present. Most of the older residents of Trail have gained part or all of their education in these buildings.

Buildings that played a great part in tying this small community together were the Churches. Mrs. Skyrman mentioned a fellow used to come by and teach Sunday School lessons occasionally, and the Free Methodists, later, held Camp meetings in the area, but it seems little was done as far as constructing a Church building until Mr. Ash turned the "old dance hall" into a Church. After this, Church was held in both the Upper and Lower Trail School houses. Finally a Church building was built by the people in the community in 1927.[18] This building was to serve as a place of worship for several years. Many of the young people as well as some of the older people of that time found a right relationship with God in that building.

Not only were these early buildings of importance to these early times, but also the roads had great significance.

The first road in the community was probably the old Military road. This Military road was surveyed by B. Alvord, assisted by J. Applegate in 1835.[19] The road came from Shady Cove over the hill above the Rogue River and past the Richardson place. From here it went across Cricket Creek past the Ragsdale place, down by the Nick Vaughn place crossing Trail Creek above Trail. After crossing the creek it went up on the mountain above the Rogue River crossing Lewis Creek and Elk Creek. It is not certain where it went from here, but it is felt that it went on over the mountain to Fort Klamath.[20] The Military road was used often by the settlers because the other road was so rough.

The public roads were hewed out by the settlers until the highway was built through Trail in 1922 or 1923. These early roads were terrible. They were covered with large rocks or the "sticky" would build up on the wheels of the wagons in the winter so heavy the wheels wouldn't turn. The people saw to it that their supplies were sufficient to last through the winter. Those living up the creek had to ford the creek several times on the way. The bridges above Trail were built in 1906, but the bridge at Trail was built in 1901. It was a covered bridge which washed out later and had to be rebuilt.[21]

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There was a slight consideration of running the railroad over the Umpqua divide and to the Rogue River at Trail. The other route (even though perhaps more adverse) had more population and cities, so it was run that way.

(The Barry Survey, concerning the railroad from south to Portland) — The beginning of Col. Barry's survey was at Jacksonville. Through the Umpqua mountains he reported two passes, one by Graves Creek which involved a one hundred foot per mile grade and the second by Trail Creek, which, although he did not examine thoroughly, he thought would be better.[22]

The ferry which crossed the Rogue River between Trail and Shady Cove was also a vital part of public travel. This ferry had a hand windlass on it which was used to steer it into the current so it would be pushed across the river by the current. The ferry would carry a wagon and team. The store supplies brought from Eagle Point were brought across on the "old ferry." This served as a means of crossing the river until the bridge was built in 1922.[23]

The Trail Cemetery is a significant landmark in the community also. The beginning of the cemetery may be quite unique. Three members of the Macklin family died within two days. There arose a need for a burial place for them. Levi Dawson donated an acre of land to bury them in. This took place in 1890. After these three were buried there, several other graves were moved to the cemetery. Until this time people buried their loved ones on their property or most any place. There are still several graves on some of the old places. Quite a number of people have been buried in the Trail Cemetery now.[24]

There have been a number of events which have taken place near Trail that are worth mentioning. Evidence shows that there was much Indian activity in that vicinity. Trail Creek was the vicinity of part of the Evans Creek campaigns of the Rogue River Indian wars.[25] Also, Trail Creek could have been the location of the Indian battle when Captain James Stuart was killed by a wounded Indian. If this is so, Captain Stuart was buried at the mouth of the creek,[26] but the information concerning this incident is vague. This took place in 1851.

Cricket Creek, which crosses the old Military road and passes near Trail before running into the Rogue River, was named after Mr. Cricket. The story goes that his son stole some horses and was caught. Mr. Cricket took the blame and was sentenced to the penitentiary. He also supposedly buried twenty-five hundred dollars someplace near the creek, but this can't be confirmed.[27]

These early settlers even had the conveniences of a doctor. A German circuit doctor came through on horseback occasionally, taking care of sickness and diseases.[28] People must have had to plan their sickness and operations to meet the doctor's schedule.

The year 1890 was known as the year of the "hard winter." The snow was so bad the livestock ran out of feed and very many of them starved. Many of the people ran low on supplies also. Then they had the worst flood in the history of the vicinity.[29] Even though these difficult times came, the people can relate many good times that they had together. It seems that the Skyrman place was often the place for these gatherings.

Another incident, perhaps, worth mentioning was that the shakes used in building the first building in Medford, Oregon came from the West Fork of Trail Creek. They were made there and delivered by wagon and team.[30]

Logging also started early. One of the first raft of logs was put in the Rogue River in 1906 at Peyton Bridge and floated down to Savage Rapids. Every so often a raft of logs were taken down the river. Several Trail men rode the logs on these drives. They would encounter many hardships on the way down.

II. Later Developments

The coming of the automobile somewhat slowed activity in the community of Trail. As the means of travel began to speed up, people began to pass through Trail without stopping. Even though this was taking place Trail remained a logging community.

The Middlebusher hotel was torn down and a store built. This store served for several years but was sold to Steve Wilson who used it as a supply house, home, and gasoline station for his logging trucks. Mr. Wilson

(Continued)

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also later built a truck stop near where the old Middlebusher hotel had been. This shop is still in use.

At the same time the Middlebusher store was operating, the Trail store was also in business. The building was built in 1928 and served the community for several years. Most of the old buildings were torn down during this period. In fact, all of them were torn down except the old Ash store. It was used as a storage place and feed store.

The highway was built through Trail in 1922 or 1923;[31] therefore, the old Military road and others which were used were abandoned. In 1922 lumber was cut from the Adamson Mill in Trail to build the bridge across Rogue River at Shady Cove.[32] The highway was built over the Umpqua divide which well served those living up Trail Creek. It is also greatly used by tourists.

There have been several sawmills at various places up the creek, but now, due to scarceness of raw materials, they have all been abandoned. There has also been a great deal of logging around the vicinity of Trail. A few small farms still exist, and a few cattle are raised in the community, but most of the people travel out of the community to work.

The Upper Trail School was consolidated with the Lower School, and later, the Lower School was consolidated with a new school on Elk Creek. Trail children are now transported to the Elk-Trail School on Elk Creek about three miles above Trail.

The Trail Church building burned in 1950, and shortly after the Church purchased the old school property. This is now the Trail Community Church.

III. Recent Developments

This small community still exists and will continue to exist unless a force of nature or man causes it to be otherwise. There are still people coming and going. Some settle for a time and move on, but there are still several of those that remember the "good old days" in Trail.

The highway has changed, now eliminating the sharp curve occurring in Trail and almost eliminating the old site of Trail. The business is gradually moving to the highway. The store has already been moved, and others are considering moving.

In 1953 a destructive flood occurred in the Rogue River and Trail Creek, causing much damage to houses around the community, but people cleaned up and repaired their homes and most of them stayed.

The Trail Community Church is building a large new building to accommodate the community. Otherwise, besides the new store and a few homes, building is at a standstill at the present. The old store built in 1906 was torn down recently, so there is room for more building, but it is not likely with the highway moved.

Most of the history of the Trail community has covered less than a century, but has contributed some in many ways to the land of the United States of America. What the future holds can not be determined. Whatever the future of this land is, Trail will have its small place, and the people of that community must realize their responsibility and act accordingly.

Appendix A.

Bibliography of Interviews:

(a) Interview with Mrs. Emma Skyrman: (the oldest, living, former resident of Trail, Oregon. Her maiden name was Martin.)

When did you come to Trail?

We moved to Trail in 1880. My father brought five head of big, fine horses with him. Soon after we arrived in Trail they were stolen and never heard of for sure again. My father thought he found them near Fort Klamath, but he had no brand on them so couldn't claim them.

What were some other incidents in your life while at Trail?

I married Mr. Carl T. Skyrman, and we built our two-story house, above where the old sawmill is now located, in 1907. This house is still standing and still being used. The Warners came this same year. My husband and I took some vegetables down and became acquainted with them. Mr. Warner helped my husband build our house.

We raised cattle, and when we butchered, we always took some meat to the neighbors.

We swam the horses across Trail Creek several times coming to Trail until a trail was finally cut down back of Trail. The bridges were built in 1907.

Mr. Skyrman looked after the schoolhouse and kept a nine months school going there. Some of the people there didn't want to go to school and only wanted a three months school. (This was known as the Upper Trail School.)

People were buried on their places or just any place until the cemetery was built, then many of them were moved to the cemetery.

Can you tell me about some of the other people on Trail Creek at that time?

Brisco came before we did, which is before 1880.

Vogali came in 1884. He was a German. She cooked on the fireplace because she had no stove.

Hill was there before 1884. He married a half-breed Indian.

John and Joe Miller were Indian War Veterans. John went back to Missouri to die because he didn't want to die here. The Government gave these Indian fighters eight dollars a month pension and later raised it to twelve dollars.

What did you do about a Doctor?

There was a German circuit doctor who came around on horseback. When he came, he took me with him to help. I learned a lot about all kinds of diseases.

We left Trail in 1918 and moved to Central Point. It was better for the children because they could go to school.

(Continued)

(b) Interview with Harry Skyrman, a lawyer in Medford and born on Trail Creek.

When did your father come to Trail?

He came sometime before 1880 as a trapper. He later married my mother, who is living in Central Point, and raised cattle.

He dug a ditch by hand the width of a shovel and over a mile long to his ranch. The ditch had a fall of one foot to the rod and is still used.

(Mr. Skyrman told me to see his mother and Walter Oliver, who are the two oldest living people of Trail. He said the Olivers raised wheat and ground their own flour. He also said that 1890 was known as the hard winter when most of the cattle starved, and there was the worst flood ever had.)

(c) Interview with Walter Oliver:

I asked Mr. Oliver for information concerning the early days at Trail. He gave me these names and incidents.

Obediah Willard built a log house and raised sheep and cattle.

Mr. Hill raised about one hundred head of cattle.

Tom Martin (Mrs. Skyrman was a Martin) also built a log house and raised cattle.

Seband Oliver (Walter's father) came ninety-eight years ago (1878) and built a log house on Trail Creek. He also raised cattle.

Tom Lawson was a bachelor and had a log cabin on Trail Creek.

Cushmans also had cattle and a log house.

Others were John and Joe Miller, Briscoe and Vogali.

Mr. Oliver said the covered bridge across Trail Creek was built in 1901 and was washed out and rebuilt.

He remembered the first Post Office was built between two trees and Knighton was the Postmaster. Also Mrs. Inlow ran the store and Allen ran the Hotel which was built in 1902.

(d) Interview with Ed Cushman, who was born on Trail Creek and living there now.

Can you tell me about the first buildings in Trail?

Mr. Ash built the old dance hall using lumber brought from Michigan by him. Middlebushers came about the same time and built a two-story hotel. It was later torn down and a store was built there. Mr. Ash bought a two-story house from Allen and had the store in it. He later built a store by the dance hall. Mr. Howe built the present store.

Can you give me some names of early settlers in the Trail area?

The places from Trail to the Umpqua Divide were:

1. Levi Dawson
2. Tom Dawson
3. Simpson Wilson
4. J. T. Try
5. Cushmans (a squatter)
6. Gilbert Briscoe
7. Carl Skyrman
8. Seband Oliver
9. Tom Martin

Mr. Cushman also said his mother, Vogali, delivered the shakes, which were made on the west fork of Trail Creek, used in building the first store in Medford.

(e) Interview with Mr. Wayne Ash, whose father was an early merchant and Postmaster in Trail:

Mr. Ash said that his father bought the hotel and store from Yancy Allen in 1912. He also built the old dance hall about 1917, later this building was used as a Church. Prior to this time, he said, the Free Methodists came through occasionally holding camp meetings. Church was held in the Lower Trail School after using the hall. In 1927 a Church building was built by the community which burned down in 1950.

Mr. Ash said the Lower Trail School was a small one room, unpainted, plain building which was later torn down and a new, better one room building built. Later another room was added.

He said the lumber used in building the bridge across Rogue River in Shady Cove was hauled from the Adamson sawmill on Trail Creek in 1922.

Also, he said, the old Military road came from Shady Cove over the hill above the river past the Richardson place, past the Ragsdale place, down by the Nick Vaughn place crossing Trail Creek. From here it went over the mountain above Rogue River across Lewis Creek and Elk Creek.

The highway was built through Trail in 1922 or 1923, he said.

(f) Interview with Mr. Howard Ash:

I asked Mr. Ash about the Trail Cemetery.

He said that the Cemetery originated when three members of the Macklin family died within two days. Levi Dawson donated an acre of land to bury them in. This was in 1890. After this, several graves were moved to the Trail Cemetery.

He said there were still three people buried on the Briscoe place, and that a fir tree was growing on top of the graves.

Mr. Ash also said that the Inlows were the original owners of the store which his father bought from Yancey Allen.

(g) Interview with Charlie Cushman, who was also born on Trail Creek.

I asked Mr. Cushman about Cricket Creek, a small creek running across the old Military road near Trail.

He said the Creek was named after a man, Mr. Cricket, whose son stole some horses. Mr. Cricket took the blame for his son and was sentenced to a term in the penitentiary. Mr. Cricket supposedly buried twenty-five hundred dollars near the creek, but it has never been found.

(h) Interview with Mr. Irwin Howe, the present Postmaster of Trail.

I asked Mr. Howe about the history of the Post Office in Trail.

(Continued)

He said the first Post Office was on the east side of the creek in a building about six feet by eight feet. He thought the Inlows had the Post Office next, then the Middlebushers had it in their hotel or road house. Mr. Ash became the Postmaster in 1914 and moved it into the store which was built beside the old dance hall in 1906. It remained there until 1928 when it was moved to the present store. Mr. Ash was the Postmaster until he died in 1935. Mr. Howe then became Postmaster. Mr. Howe built the present Post Office in 1947. Until 1946 the Trail Post Office was a fourth-class Post Office, but in that year it was raised to third class.

He also said he helped put the old ferry in the Rogue River which crossed the river between Shady Cove and Trail. It could haul a team and wagon and was hand operated; that is, it crossed by taking advantage of the current. He hauled groceries from Eagle Point and crossed on this old ferry for the Trail Store.

Mr. Howe also said there was a large livery stable in Trail. This was a halfway stop for Prospect residents.

Appendix B.

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32. Appendix A, Interview (c)

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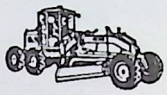

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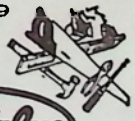

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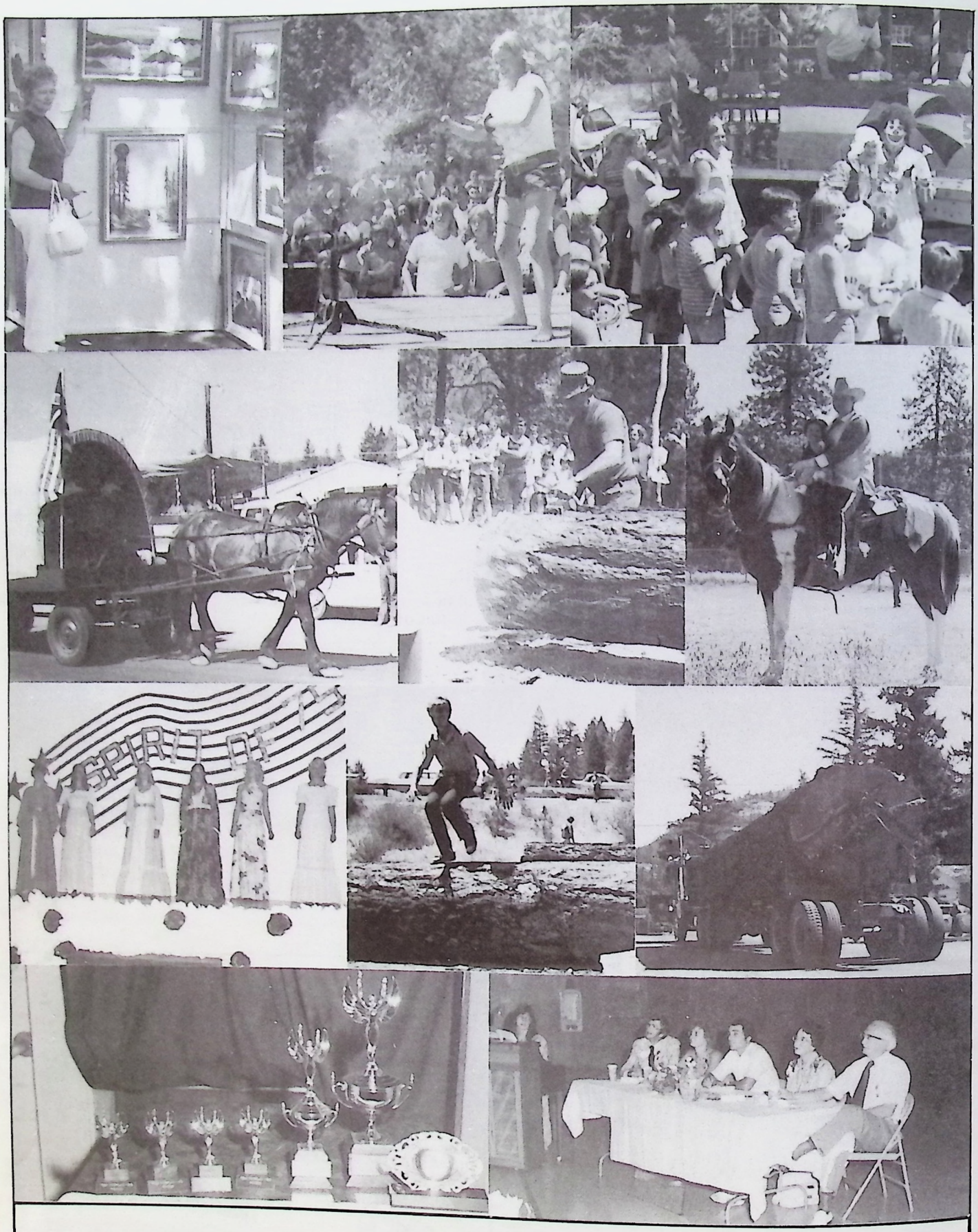

FOR PICTURES OF THE PAST CONTACT: **Frank Cordeiro, jr.** 878-2448

LOCAL - Churches, Clubs & Orginizations

CHURCHES

Assembly of God: Reverend A. W. Willis
Services: Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Jehovahs Witnesses: Deltie Moore, Overseer
Services: Sunday, 10 a.m.

Upper Rogue Methodist: Reverend L. S. Sebring, Jr.
Services: 11:15 a.m. Sundays

Latter Day Saints: Bishop Clifford Bagley
Services: Sunday, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Sacraments: 11:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

ORGANIZATIONS

Alcoholic Anonymous: Meets 8 p.m. each Tuesday in basement of St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

Shady Cove Grange No. 931: Marie Thornton, Master
Meets for Business on the 1st Saturday of the month, 8 p.m.
Social meeting: 3rd Thursday 6:30 p.m.

DeMolays: Dad Advisor: John Fountain
Meets in Medford Masonic Temple
1st and 3rd Monday each month, 7 p.m.

Boy Scouts of America: Joe Allsop, Scoutmaster
Troop sponsored by Upper Rogue Methodist. Meets each Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. in Upper Rogue Methodist Church

Campfire Girls and Blue Birds) Kathy Mason, area chairman
) Each group meets each week
) Leaders meet once a month, at the Shady Cove Library
For information call Kathy Mason 878-2238

VFW Post & Auxiliary Commander James Sikes
President Edith Merit
First Friday each month

Shady Cove Council: Each Thursday 1:00 p.m. except for the third Thursday, which will be on Tuesday preceding the regular council meeting — 3rd Thursday each month 7:30 p.m.

Shady Cove Planning Commission: 7:30 p.m.
Second and fourth Monday each month

Shady Cove-Trail Home Extension: 4th Wednesday

Rogue Elk Home Extension: 3rd Wednesday each month, 10:30 a.m.

COD (Committee For Orderly Development):
First Monday each month

Rogue Wonderland Association:
First Monday each month

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Clubs & Orginizations

SHADY COVE – TRAIL ARTS AND CRAFTS ASSOCIATION

The Shady Cove-Trail Arts and Crafts Association was formed with nine members, August 14, 1973. The membership has now grown to 35 members.

The purpose of the Association is to encourage the talent in arts and crafts of persons living in the Upper Rogue.

Members meet the first Wednesday each month, 1:00 p.m., in the Shady Cove Arts and Crafts Association Studio located on Highway 62, Trail. Dues are $2.50 per year.

At the present time classes are held each Tuesday of the month, in the Studio, at which time members are encouraged to "do their own thing." Many of the members are beginners.

Membership is open to all interested persons. For further information call 878-2416 or 878-2153.

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BETHEL NO. 56
International Order of Jobs Daughters

Sponsored by Cascade Lodge No. 208

Meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M. Summer-Fall Term.

Honored Queen – Cheryl Wilson
Guardian – Gail Hudspeth (Mrs. Warren)

Job's Daughters are girls between the ages of 11-21. Anyone wishing more information please contact Cheryl Wilson 878-2708 or Gail Hudspeth 878-2295.

★☆★

EASTERN STAR

The newest Chapter of the Order of Eastern Stars was instituted Feb. 29, 1976 in Shady Cove with Alice Nutt as Worthy Matron and Glenn Burrill as Worthy Patron. There were 50 Charter members and since then 16 new members have either been initiated, affiliated or have joined by dual membership.

On Aug. 1, 1976 the new Chapter, named Mazama, will be constituted and will receive their Charter and number. This is an open meeting to be held in the Shady Cove School gymnasium at 1:00 P.M.

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SHADY COVE – TRAIL AUXILIARY – EAGLE POINT RESCUE & AMBULANCE SERVICE

Auxiliary members assist the community Ambulance Service by raising funds, helping with publicity and promotion, and performing other appropriate services as needed. On-going projects include handling a Memorial Gift Program and catering the monthly Civic Association Luncheon.

Chairman: Mrs. Charles T. Guild (Patricia) 878-2896

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LOAVES AND FISHES

The Shady Cove Loaves and Fishes program, organized in January of 1972, has grown by leaps and bounds and now serves an average of 55 people each Tuesday and Thursday. Staff is one excellent cook, Fran Davis, and many volunteers.

Meals are served in the activity room of St. Martin's Episcopal Church between 12:00 noon and 1:00 P.M. each Tuesday and Thursday. Meals are delivered to those unable to attend. If you know anyone who needs meals delivered, please call 878-2916.

It is fun to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends, so if you are 60 or over, come and join us.

A bus takes senior citizens into Medford each Monday morning, leaving St. Martin's at 9:00 A.M. and returning by 1:30 P.M.

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THE SHADY COVE ROTARY CLUB

The Shady Cove Rotary Club was organized in 1948, with 29 charter members; two of whom are still in the club, Mayor Ray Briggs and Carroll Watson. The club was sponsored by the Medford club.

The motto of Rotary is "Service Above Self" and the local club has pretty well lived up to this belief, having been responsible for many beneficial projects of local and international importance.

At present there are 23 members, representing most of the business and professional leaders of the area. The Shady Cove Club is one of the smallest clubs of District 511 made up of the region from Albany in Oregon to Weed in California.

What the club lacks in size is largely made up by activity. Without too much publicity Shady Cove Rotary has gone about performing the objects of Rotary. They presently lead the District, percentage wise, in participation with the Rotary Foundation, which has to do with world-wide relationship and understanding. This is in addition to numerous local projects. They also received the District award for the greatest percentage of growth for the year of 1975-76; that of 130 per cent.

Shady Cove Rotary is proud to be an active participant of the Upper Rogue Area.

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HOME EXTENSION SHADY TRAILS UNIT

Home Extension is a state sponsored study group under the U.S. Department of Agriculture dealing with studies concerning the many roles of homemakers in today's society. The Extension in this area was started about thirty-five years ago. The meetings are held in the homes of the members every fourth Wednesday in the month from September through May.

Tina Camp – Chairman 878-2649
Carolyn Dusenberry – Vice-Chairman
Harriet Hudspeth – Secretary
Pat Carter – Treasurer

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SHADY COVE GRANGE #931

The Shady Cove Grange was organized May 1950 with Mr. Walter Mallory as Master. Mr. Mallory celebrated his 90th birthday last April. The meetings of the Grange are held at the Grange Hall on Chaparrell Ave. in Shady Cove. The business meeting is held on the first Saturday at 8:00 P.M. The Social night is on the third Saturday of each month beginning with a potluck supper at 7:00 P.M. Mrs. Marie Selleck Thornton is the Master and can be reached at 878-2118.

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SHADY COVE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Shady Cove Civic Association is an organization which was formed long before Shady Cove became an incorporated city.

The Civic Association meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Lunch, which is prepared by the Eagle Point Ambulance Auxiliary, is served at noon.

The one-hour meeting consists of reports given from different organizations, including the city government, and a guest speaker or speakers talking about subjects which are of interest to this community.

The 1976 officers are Chairman William Shepherd, Vice-Chairman George Doney, Secretary-Treasurer Caralyn Dusenberry.

The public is invited to attend and the yearly membership fee is $3.00 per person or business.

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WOMEN'S CLUB OF THE UPPER ROGUE

The Women's Club of the Upper Rogue was organized in the Fall of 1973 and now has over 65 members. Its objects are to "further artistic and civic advancement, personal enrichment, and preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the community." In its short life the Club has raised and donated money for the following community projects: Eagle Point Rescue & Ambulance Service, Community Building Fund, Landscaping for the Upper Rogue Community Health Center and Jackson County Library. Each year it plants flowers at the Post Office and other community spots and donates and wraps gifts for senior citizens at Loaves and Fishes. Anyone interested in joining is asked to call Mrs. K. C. Pine, Chairman, 878-2664; or Mrs. Harry Kuhn, Vice-Chairman, 878-2605.

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UPPER ROGUE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Opened in August of 1975, the Upper Rogue Community Health Center, located on Cleveland Drive in Shady Cove, is now fully staffed with:

Kevin West, M.D.
Marci West, Nurse Practitioner
Charles Dugnolle, Optometrist
Edward Steudli, Dentist

The Health Center is open Monday through Friday. Please call 878-2231 for an appointment. Emergency services are available 24 hours a day. Dial O and ask for Commerce 9904.

A free blood pressure clinic is held each Tuesday from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 A.M. No appointment necessary.

A ten week course in Behaviour Modification for weight control was started June 8, 1976 and meets each Tuesday evening at 7:00 P.M.

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SHADY COVE BICENTENNIAL

Five years ago the United States Congress set aside a quarter of a million dollars to celebrate our nation's two-hundredth birthday. These funds were available to every recognized Bicentennial city, town or community, through a grant application.

Shady Cove applied for a grant in March, 1975 to develop a mini-park on the former bank bus location. We were turned down because it would only be able to remain there until the property was sold by its owner Jerry Erlinger.

The Shady Cove-Trail Loggers and friends developed the mini-park themselves and placed totem poles which were carved for a contest held Feb. 28, 1976.

Shady Cove received a grant for a mini-park to be developed on the new City Hall grounds. Flag poles will also be erected for which a grant has been received.

The national Bicentennial celebration began on July 4th, 1975 and goes through December 31st, 1976. Shady Cove's celebration began on July 4th with a flag raising ceremony held on the new City Hall grounds. Two flag presentations were made, one the Bicentennial flag was presented to the City by the Shady Cove Bicentennial chairman, Faye Thompson. Mrs. Dale Sawyer presented an American flag to the City which will be used at the new City Hall.

November 6, 1975, Oregon's U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield was asked if he would send the City of Shady Cove a flag which had flown over the nation's capital at Washington, D.C. He stated he would bring the flag in person on February 28, 1976.

A Bicentennial dinner was held in the Shady Cove school gym at which Senator Hatfield was our very special guest. Other guests attending were Dr. Sours, President of Southern Oregon State College and appointed to the Oregon Bicentennial Commission by then Governor Tom McCall, and the State Director of the Oregon Bicentennial, Mr. Frank Quinlan. It was a very eventful afternoon and evening by which the people of the Shady Cove area will always remember "the day Senator Hatfield came to town."

The Shady Cove Bicentennial Committee would like to thank everyone who has had a part in making our Bicentennial projects and celebrations such a wonderful success. Thank you again!

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Schedule of Events – Driftboat Races – Marathon

SATURDAY

MARATHON RACE 11:15
at Elk Creek
Finish app. 12:15 p.m. Shady Cove Park

OBSTACLE COURSE
Start 2:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

ONE-MAN SPRINT
11:00 a.m. bridge to park

TWO-MAN SPRINT
1:00 p.m. bridge to park

**** NO ENTRY FEE ****

Boats run on a Boat to Boat Competition Basis for Trophys 1 - 2 - 3 place

Trophy Presentation 3:00 p.m.

Schedule of Events – Timber Carnival

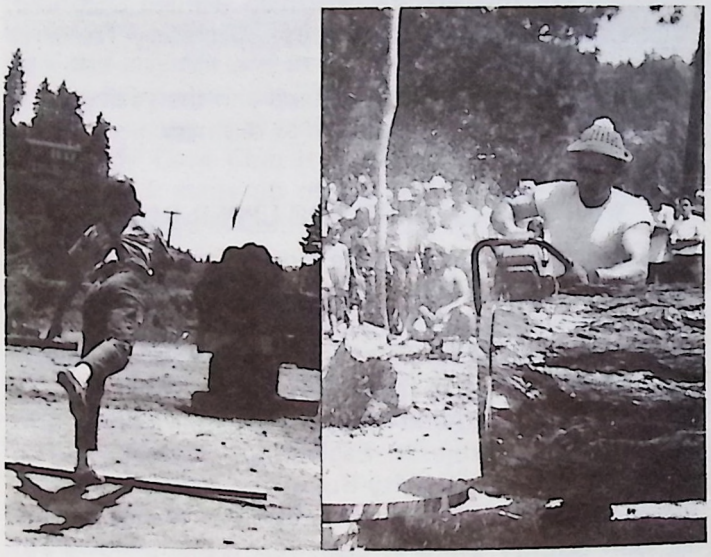
Sponsored by

SHADY COVE JAY CEE'S

Choker Setting – Men - Women - Kids 14 and under
Greased Pole Climb – 3 men or women teams
Log Rolling – Mixed
Power Saw Bucking – large - small - antique - farmer
Hand Bucking – 2 man - 2 woman - Jack & Jill
Axe Throw – Men - Women
Chopping – Men
High Climb – Men
Horse logging team demonstration?

All profits will go towards Community betterment projects.

All entrants welcome to try out. Come on and join the fun.



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1976 WATER FESTIVAL-SCHEDULE of EVENTS

SATURDAY, JULY 24	7:30–12	Grange Breakfast.
	9:00–10:00	Parade Assembly Time
	9:30–10:30	Parade Pre-Judging
	10:30	Horseshoe Contest. Behind Rainbow Chevron station.
	11:00	Parade down Highway 62, from the Shady Cove Clinic to Rogue River Drive
	11:30	River Boat Races. To continue until approximately 3 PM. (See Schedule)
	11:00	Booths in Shady Cove Park. Arts and Crafts show in the park.
	11:30	Bar-B-Que in the park. Continuous from 11:30 until 3:30 PM.
	12:00–1:00	Music in the park. Fiddlers, etc.
	12:00–1:00	Totem Pole Auction at B & B Chain Saw Shop.
	1:00	Parade Trophies to be given in the park.
	2:00–3:00	Boat Races. Still on.
	2:00–4:00	Children's Activities in the park.
	7:00	Princess Pageant in the park.
	9:00	Dance at the School Gym. Music by The Misfits.
SUNDAY, JULY 25	8:30	Queen's Breakfast at Grange. Open to the public. Entertainment during breakfast.
	10:00–4:00	Booths and Art Show.
	10:30	Horseshoes. Behind Rainbow Chevron station.
	10:30	Boat Races.
	11:30–2:00	Bar-B-Que in park.
		– Church Services at School Music Center –
	1:00	Timber Carnival. Assorted Contests—choke setters, cross saw, greased pole. Timber Carnival will be held behind Joe's Rainbow Chevron Station.
	2:30	Trophy Presentation Boat Races.
	3:00	Tug of War in the park. Will be on the beach this year, for both men and women. A water hose will be used to wet participants.
	4:00	Shady Ladies softball game on Little League Field, followed by The-Over-The-Hill-Gang Baseball game.
	4:00	All Booths to close and final clean-up.

GRANGE BREAKFAST

Shady Cove Grange Hall

Sat. 7:30 AM – 12 Noon

Sun. 8:30 AM – 12 Noon

FESTIVAL BAR-B-QUE

Adults $2.00

Children under 6 FREE

When accompanied with Parents order.

Rogue Wonderland Association

WATER FESTIVAL – PARADE ROUTE –

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